

Chief Chase oversees Battalion 3 of the Santa Clara County Fire Department, consisting of seven stations and their heroic crews.

Affectionately referred to as "The Senator" by his peers, Chief Chase has served as the Program Facilitator for the Hazardous Materials Program. He is a member of the California State FIREScope Task Force. In addition, Hal manages the Department's Response Map Program, Hose Program, and Hydrant Testing Program.

With these awesome responsibilities, it is a wonder how Chief Chase can reserve time for other commitments. But his contributions to his community are just as extensive. Chief Chase is committed to the high school anti-drinking campaign, "Every 15 Minutes." Through his tireless efforts, much needed fire equipment was donated to Mexico, including coats, hats, and even fire engines. Hal is also a strong supporter of the Democratic Party.

On occasion, Chief Chase has been known to forego his fire fighting skills to purposely starting them, in the kitchen. He has applied his passion for cooking for not only the pleasure of his crew, but also for charity. Along with the raised monies, raffled dinners at the firehouse have promoted stronger relations with the community.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Battalion Chief Hal Chase for his magnanimous dedication to the community and fire department of Santa Clara County. Although we celebrate his retirement, I know Chief Chase will continue serving Santa Clara, even if only out of the kitchen.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BETTY PFISTER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute today to a pioneer in the field of aviation. Betty Pfister of Aspen, Colorado has been named by Women in Aviation International as one of the 100 Most Influential Women in aviation history. Betsy joins well-known figures Amelia Earhart and Sally Ride, on the list, and it is easy to see why—her accomplishments are truly impressive.

Sally began flying while in high school and served as a Woman's Air Service Pilot (WASP) during World War II. WASPs piloted planes around the country to help free-up men to fly combat missions in Europe and Asia. After the war, Sally worked as both a pilot and flight attendant, getting in plenty of flying on her own time as well.

In 1950 and 1952 Sally won international air races, and in 1973 and 1978 she piloted for the United States in the World Helicopter Championships. Sally also piloted balloons, founded the Pitkin County Air Rescue, and created scholarships to enable flight instruction among high school age children. One of her former planes, a World War fighter she named "Galloping Gertie," is on display at the Smithsonian's Air And Space Museum.

Mr. Speaker, Betty is more than a talented and versatile pilot. She is a leader who, through her remarkable success, helped motivate and inspire future generations of young male and female pilots alike. Betty embodies the competence and can-do spirit that helped

make America great, and I am proud to recount her impressive story here today.

HONORING MCLEAN COUNTY, ILLINOIS AS A COMMUNITY OF EXCELLENCE

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2003

Mr. WELLER. I rise today to congratulate McLean County, Illinois, recipient of the 2003 Communities Can! Community of Excellence Award. Communities Can! is a program initiated by the Department of Health and Human Services, coordinated by the Georgetown University Center for Child and Human Development.

The Community of Excellence Award is presented to only four communities each year for demonstrating their ability to efficiently collaborate and utilize resources provided by public and private programs for supporting young children and their families. McLean County has successfully tailored these complex programs to meet their specific needs.

McLean County, a community of 154,000 people located in Central Illinois, received this honor for their innovation, flexibility, and the broad range of service and support they provide. Their approach is to identify the needs of families in the community, match those needs with appropriate service, and do so in a cost effective manner, which has produced great results.

I am proud to represent McLean County, Illinois, and commend her citizens of for their hard work and the success it yielded, leading to their receiving the Community of Excellence award. I look forward to working with them as they enjoy future success, hopefully leading other communities to adopt the creative, effective service to needy families that our Nation needs to meet the challenges ahead.

INFORMING THE HOUSE OF THE DEATH OF FORMER U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TOM GETTYS

HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2003

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, I have the sad duty of informing the House of the death of Tom S. Gettys, who served in the House of Representatives from 1964 to 1974, representing the Fifth District of South Carolina, and served even longer as administrative assistant to Rep. James P. Richards.

On Sunday, Tom Gettys and his wife, Mary Phillips, went a last time together to the First ARP Church in Rock Hill, South Carolina. On Sunday evening, he slipped quietly away, dying in the town he loved, where he had spent his life, much of it serving the people.

The term "public servant" is often misapplied, but in the case of Tom Gettys, it is a perfect fit. He was a school principal and coach; right-hand aide to a high-ranking congressman; a naval officer who volunteered for duty and served in the Pacific; a postmaster; a night-school, self-taught lawyer; and for ten years, a Member of Congress.

As congressman, he endeared himself to the people who elected him. If folks in the Fifth District revered Dick Richards and admired Bob Hemphill, they loved Tom Gettys. They loved him because he had an easy-going affinity for all sorts of people, and because he put his constituents first and worked hard for them, and they knew it.

When he was at the top of his form, Tom Gettys retired. He had the good grace not to hang on in Washington to capitalize on his relationships, but instead came back to Rock Hill, hung out his shingle and practiced law. As a young lawyer, I used to run into him checking titles with the rest of us in the clerk of court's office. This was the self-deprecating side of the man that people appreciated. He took his work seriously, but never himself.

I saw this side of Tom Gettys when I was in Washington in the 1970s and walked with him to the House floor. Tom knew the capitol police, the elevator operators, the doorkeepers, all by first name. He told me later that having been a staffer, he knew who ran the House.

I got an even better insight when Tom visited me soon after I was elected. I begged him to sit and talk, but could tell he had something else on his mind, and soon found out what it was. He wanted to go downstairs to the Longworth Cafeteria and speak to Odessa. Odessa ran the breakfast line, and was a spirited soul, full of chatter and advice, which she dished out freely while you decided how you wanted your eggs. Tom seldom came to Capitol Hill without visiting Odessa.

Tom Gettys belonged to the old school, to the era before pollsters, spin-masters, and 30-second spots, and he often told me, it was a good thing. He enjoyed introducing me as the "second-best looking congressman to represent the 5th District." I enjoyed telling him, "Tom, if good looks had anything to do with being elected to this office, you would have lost to Bate Harvey in 1964." He was not some political artifact, crafted to win elections. He was the genuine article—of the people, by the people, for the people. When many of his conservative colleagues voted against Medicare, Tom Gettys stood with his people. He voted for it, and was proud of it.

If he were to give his own farewell, he would tell us that marrying Mary Phillips White surpassed all of his achievements, and Julia and Beth were their crowning glory. He was a doting grandparent and used to say that if he had the chance to come back after dying, he would want come back as one of his grandchildren.

Those of us who learned from Tom Gettys and looked up to him will miss him. We will miss the wisdom he shared with us, and the stories that never grew old. He exemplified what life in a democracy is about. He earned the satisfaction every public servant wants: he left his country better than he found it.

HONORING LADISLAV COLIN "POPS" BAUER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I stand before the nation and this Congress with a heavy